

update

Vol. 1 No. 13

December 8, 1978

CRITICAL CARE NEEDS TO BE MET

Due to the severe overcrowding in the Hospital Center's Critical and Progressive Care Units, plans are underway to make changes in several areas to provide different levels of care to more specifically meet patient care needs.

The Intensive Care Unit includes 16 beds which were constructed when the hospital opened. Until recently, only 12 were needed. However, due to the increasing census, primarily comprised of open heart and trauma patients, all 16 beds were opened as of October 1.

The Acute Coronary Care Unit, constructed to house 12 beds and previously operating at 9, has experienced similar pressures and as of October 1, also has all 12 beds in operation.

The Progressive Care Unit operates 16 beds which have telemetry (monitoring a patient's heart activity by transmission of radio waves) monitoring of the heart rhythm, and was designed to provide care to patients not requiring a critical care unit, but a more intense level of care than offered on the general medical/surgical units. An increasing number of post-surgical patients require a level of care not as intense as the critical care units, but with hard-wire monitoring (where the monitors are actually attached to the patient) for internal pressures as well as heart rhythm monitoring. Therefore, the Progressive Care Area is going to be changed to include hard-wire monitoring for all 16 beds. Of these 16, 2 four-bed units will be modified to permit continuous visual observation for concentrated or progressive surgical care.

The telemetry monitoring from 8 beds in Progressive Care will be transferred to 8 beds on 3B for patients requiring only EKG monitoring,



Deja Vu-Just when last winter has been all but forgotten, it's back again! The season's first snowfall, only four days after Thanksgiving, caught most of us off guard. Trying to get the upper hand in the situation is Engineering's Gerry Butz.

such as post-myocardial infarction and pulmonary emboli patients. Staffing in both areas will be modestly adjusted to provide the appropriate level of nursing care.

Work on the Burn Unit will also be accomplished at this time. The Burn Unit will be modified to provide optimum care to all patients. Two of the existing beds cannot be visually monitored.

With these modifications we will be able to provide four levels of medical and surgical care; intensive care with

multiple monitoring capabilities; progressive care with hard-wired monitoring; Progressive Care with Telemetric monitoring, and general Medical and Surgical Nursing care.

In order to make these renovations, and allow time for staff orientation, 3B will be closed to new admissions from December 11 through December 31. Because the census is normally low at this time, it is an ideal time to make the changes. It is expected that all renovations will be completed by mid-January.

5TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR EMPLOYEES

It might be hard to believe, but the Holiday Season is upon us. This year, the Hospital Center will present, without charge to employees, a superb Christmas extravaganza on Wednesday, December 13.

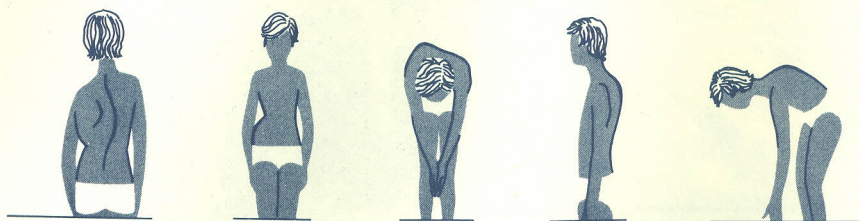
Beginning with lunch at 10:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M., and again for dinner, 5:00 - 6:30 P.M., it will be a delicious feast:

Christmas Punch - Cocktail
Shishkabobs
Roast Whole Round of Beef, Au Jus, sliced to order
Allemane Potatoes
Snow Peas with pimento pieces
Squash Supreme
Christmas Salad
Relish Tray
Loaf Bread, sliced to order, with whipped butter
Assorted Ice Cream Parfaits
Assorted Layer Cake
Holiday Cake Roll
Fruit Compote
Coffee or Tea

In addition, a Christmas Breakfast for night shift personnel will be available, without charge, on the morning of Thursday, December 14, 6:30 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.:

Fruit or Juice
Scrambled Eggs
Grilled Canadian Bacon
Toast with Butter
Danish Pastry
Coffee or Tea
Come, relax, and enjoy!

SCHOOL HEALTH PROJECT TO DETECT SPINAL ABNORMALITIES BEGINS



A program to promote screening for scoliosis and other spinal abnormalities as part of the physical education curriculum for all Lehigh Valley area school children in grades 5 through 9 is now underway, according to David Sussman, M.D., Medical Director of the Program. Funded by the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust and based at the Hospital Center, the program is designed to provide initial and continuing instruction for physical education instructors and school nurses to detect spinal problems and refer suspected cases to the child's family physician. Also included in the program are plans to develop a clinic for spinal abnormalities for individuals who don't have a family physician.

Explaining the need for spinal screening, Dr. Sussman stated that "spinal deformities often develop during the years of early adolescence, when the young person grows very rapidly. If the abnormalities are found in the early stages, they usually can be kept from getting worse and doing serious damage. Unfortunately," he continued, "spinal deformities, such as scoliosis and kyphosis, often aren't discovered until later on when major surgery is needed to correct them or permanent damage has been done. Treatment is simpler and more effective when conditions are detected early. By screening students who are in the years of rapid growth, early detection is possible."

Ann Mantini, clinical coordinator of the project, explained that signs of scoliosis, a side to side curvature of the spine, are found in approximately four percent of young people, but continued follow-up or treatment is needed in only about two percent. Kyphosis, an abnormal backward protrusion of the spine, is less common than scoliosis. She stated that screening for postural defects in school age children is mandated by the state, and the program is designed to provide needed instruction and support to the school systems to carry out this mandate.

When an irregularity is found, parents are notified and urged to take the student to a physician for further evaluation and treatment when necessary. According to Dr. Sussman, treatment usually consists of a back brace which helps correct the condition and keep it from progressing. The brace does not interfere with most activities including non-contact sports. Only in more advanced cases is surgery required.

Screening for spinal deformities in the schools has proven successful in many parts of the country. Mrs. Mantini stated that after a few years of annual screening, the need for surgery can be eliminated almost entirely, and many young people who might have developed a permanent disability or deformity remain fully active and show virtually no signs of serious spinal condition.

Symposium '78

TIA's, Stroke Rehabilitation, and Syndromes are part of the many topics to be covered at **"Stroke - Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment"** on December 9, in the Hospital Center Auditorium.

As part of Symposium '78, a continuing series of professional conferences sponsored by the Hospital Center, the program will feature discussions by Louis Caplan, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, and co-founder, Harvard Stroke Registry; and five A&SHHC staff physicians: Robert Downie, M.D., Chief, Department of Physical Medicine; Harry Kaupp, M.D., Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery; Glenn Kratzer, M.D., Division of Internal Medicine; Lawrence Levitt, M.D., Chief, Division of Neurology; and Robert Morrow, M.D., Division of Neurosurgery.

The program will begin at 8:45 A.M.

Category I credit is available through the Lehigh Valley Area Health Education Center, and credit is available through the American Academy of Family Practitioners, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Update

Gale Schmidt — Editor
Jim Higgins — Associate Editor
Janet Dech — Staff Assistant
Jack Dittbrenner — Photography
Darla Molnar — Photography
Pete Gallo — Art



Respiratory Therapy's Eric Bakow, BA, RRT (left), Dave Ott, CRTT, and Becky Russel, GRT, have received promotions, according to Technical Director Bob Evans. Eric has become Associate Technical Director; Dave replaces Eric as Assistant Technical Director; and Becky has taken over the evening shift supervisor position. Also, Eric has been appointed to the Editorial Board of Critical Care Quarterly Magazine.

In other news from the Department, graduate Respiratory Therapists **Marie Johnson, Rick Newton, and Becky Russel** have passed the written portion of a national exam leading to registry. A clinical simulation exam remains.

Percussionists Bonnie Dryfoos, Mike Quinn, and open heart monitor, Barbara Elmore are back after spending some time in Dallas, Texas. The trio attended seminars and conferences at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association.

Reverend Charles V. Naugle, recently retired Pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church, Macungie, has joined the Pastoral Care Department. Reverend Naugle, who will be assisting Father Connolly one day a week, is the father of George Naugle, Physical Medicine.

John J. Shane, M.D., Director of Pathology, has been elected Pennsylvania Alternate Delegate to the College of American Pathologists. As an alternative delegate, Dr. Shane becomes one of four pathologists to represent Pennsylvania. A Fellow in the CAP, Dr. Shane will serve as alternate for three years.

Carol Szurgot, MT, ASCP, Microbiology Supervisor, has had an article accepted by the Johnston Laboratories, Cockeysville, Maryland, for publication in their *BacTec News*.

Titled "Growing Legionnaires Disease in BacTec," the article concerns experimental growing of cultures in anaerobic broth under aerobic conditions.

Jack Dittbrenner, Biomedical Photography, attended the Northeastern U.S. Meeting of the Biological Photographic Association at the Hershey Medical Center. A member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the BPA, Jack participated in several workshops and seminars at the event.



If you happened to be working or visiting in the Hospital Center this Thanksgiving, you may have noticed that the Gift Shop was in operation. Special thanks to Bob and Millie Roush who gave up their Thanksgiving to "mind the store" while volunteers Mary Graber, Madge Jacobs, Nancy Schlenker, Ed and Martha Stein, and Virginia Widenmeyer served the rest of the Hospital Center on the holiday.

And speaking of holidays, attractive tray favors for Thanksgiving were made by Cathy Mundt, Girl Scout Troop #611, Whitehall, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #123. Halloween tray favors were supplied by Cadet Troop #636, Brownie Troop #686, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #788, Boulevard E. C. Church, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #241, Walberts.

According to Norine Shafer, Director of Volunteers, Temple Beth El will again provide coverage for the department on Christmas Day, and Roberta Tinsman has begun her duties as the department's new secretary.

on call

Appearing on "On Call: A Community Health Series" on WLVT-TV, Channel 39, will be:

December 11, 7:30 P.M.

December 16, 3:00 P.M. - Alcoholism, with Dr. Leo Eddinger and Dick Williams, Executive Director of the Lehigh County Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Alcoholism and coping with an alcoholic will be discussed.

December 18, 7:30 P.M.

December 23, 3:00 P.M. - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - A "live" show featuring Dr. George Moerkirk and Eva White, R.N., discussing life saving techniques. Viewers are encouraged to phone in their questions which will be answered during the telecast at 867-4677.



**The Center
Welcomes**

To Business Office

Mary Evans

To Housekeeping:

Darlene Hartman

Forrest Kramer

Carolyn O'Donnell

To Nursing Service:

Thomas Chromiak

Ann Marie Distasio

Darlene Lapinski

James Perez

Letha Perna

To Radiology:

John Kiriposki

Dorothy Kurinec

Kathie Kutzler

Rita Shovlin

Gerald Whisner



What appears to be a Red Cross First Aid Station is in reality Classrooms I and II. The occasion? The Miller Memorial Blood Center's arrival at the Hospital Center via the Miller Bloodmobile. Seventy pints of blood were donated by Hospital Center employees for the blood donor drive, and a special thanks to all who made it happen!

CPR INSTRUCTION

Registration is underway for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for non-nursing personnel. Since classes are limited to 10 people, enrolling for the class will be on a first come - first serve basis.

December 18 - December 22

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Classrooms I and II

January 15 - January 19

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Classrooms I and II

Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center
1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, Pa 18105

Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1922
Allentown, Pa.
18105

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Fleming
President

James E. McCambridge, Jr.
Vice-President

Hon. Henry V. Scheirer
Secretary

James C. Lanshe
Treasurer

W. Richard Covert, D.D.S.

Henry H. Dent

William D. Locke

Msgr. James J. McHale

Orlando R. Pozzuoli

Morton I. Silverman, M.D.

Ellwyn D. Spiker
Administrator

Valeria S. Boyer
Associate Administrator